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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 07791 070938Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
----------070943Z 069994 /15
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4831

S E C R E T CAIRO 7791

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EG, US, LY
SUBJECT: FAHMY'S COMMENT ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S ORAL MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT SADAT

REF: (A) STATE 095802, (B) CAIRO 7324

1. WHEN MEETING WITH FAHMY YESTERDAY, I ASKED IF HE HAD DELIVERED THE ORAL MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT SADAT. HE SAID HE HAD, BUT EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT ABOUT THE MESSAGE. IT HAD, IN HIS WORDS, "MADE NO COMMITMENT" TO ASSIST EGYPT IN ITS CURRENT PROBLEMS WITH SOVIETS OR WITH LIBYA. HE PROFESSED TO BE WORRIED, MOREOVER, THAT OUR QUEST FOR A DIALOGUE WITH LIBYA IS ENCOURAGING QADHAFI AND THE SOVIETS TO ATTACK EGYPT IN THE PUBLIC MEDIA. HE IMPLIED, BUT HE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY STATE, THAT HE WAS GIVING SADAT'S REACTION.

2. I SAID THAT I WAS SURPRISED AT HIS REACTION. THERE HAD BEEN NO TALK OF ANY COMMITMENTS BEING SOUGHT OR FOR THAT MATTER NEEDED. I RECALLED THAT FAHMY, WHEN TELLING ME ABOUT THE SOVIET MESSAGE AND HIS TALK WITH POLYAKOV, HAD MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT GOE HAD TAKEN THE MEASURE
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OF THE SOVIETS IN THE PAST AND INTENDED TO DO SO AGAIN. PRESIDENT CARTER'S ORAL MESSAGE REFLECTED FAHMY'S EXPRESSED VIEW THAT GOE WOULD TAKE CARE OF THIS MATTER AND INDICATED USG CONFIDENCE THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD COME OUT OF THE AFFAIR "SADDER BUT WISER." THIS WAS CERTAINLY A MARK OF CONFIDENCE IN GOE'S ABILITY TO HANDLE THE SITUATION. SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS, IT

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SEEMED TO ME, UNDERSCORED THE CORRECTNESS OF THE GOE ESTIMATE. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HIS COMMENT ABOUT "NO COMMITMENT" SEEMED TO BE REDUNDANT. AS FAR AS LIBYA IS CONCERNED, I HAD EXPLAINED TO HIM AND TO PRESIDENT SADAT OUR POLICY TOWARD THAT COUNTRY (CAIRO 7106). THERE SHOULD CERTAINLY BE NO UNCERTAINTY ON THE PART OF OUR EGYPTIAN FRIENDS RE OUR VIEWS ON THIS MATTER.

3. FAHMY GRUMBLED THAT PRESIDENT SADAT AND HE HAD HOPED THAT THERE WOULD BE A SOMEWHAT MORE FORTHCOMING REPLY. SADAT, HE NOTED, IS STILL AWAITING OUR RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S REQUEST FOR ARMS FOR AFRICA. THE SOVIET MESSAGE AND THE EGYPTIAN RESPONSE, FAHMY CONTENDED, MUST BE READ IN THE LIGHT OF SOVIET-LIBYAN COLLUSION NOT ONLY AGAINST EGYPT BUT AGAINST OTHER PRO-WESTERN GOVTS IN AFRICA. EILTS

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